

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McGEORGE BURNETT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Lisa Howard's Interview  
with Fidel Castro

Mr. Pierre Salinger in a memorandum to Mr. Edwin M. Martin of May 2, 1963 requested comments on a transcript of an ABC interview with Castro. A memorandum which provides comment on the ABC transcript is enclosed.

*William E. Brooke*  
William E. Brooke  
Executive Secretary

Enclosures

1. Memorandum.
2. Transcript.

THE

- a. The Russian want agreement to forestall United States aggression.
- b. The Soviet troops are merely technicians - but would fight if Cuba is invaded.
- c. Stalin believes hard core Communists and revolutionaries have been recruited.
- d. Castro is an agent. He has complete anti-Americanism. He desires an armed ally.
- e. Russia opposing revolution. Says it can't do so.
- f. Castro will be subjected to inspection through Soviet agents.
- g. Invitation to a United States commission to talk about compensation.
- h. Standing earlier promises of elections, etc. because of changed conditions and state of war.
- i. Would welcome reductions of tensions and rapprochement with United States.
- j. Will not change the role of the Caribbean.

**CONCLUSIONS**

- on the ground  
travelers, and  
policy.

2. [REDACTED] was a member of the International  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] his  
[REDACTED]

- ...the ... countries, particularly ... Mexico, ...  
... the ... of ... the ... danger.  
... the ... of ...

...the question

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. Edwin L. Martin  
Assistant Secretary of State for American  
Affairs

I've just received this transcript of an ABC  
interview with Castro. Would you please look  
it over, give me your comments and return it  
to me at your earliest convenience?

  
Edwin L. Martin  
Assistant Secretary  
of State

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Washington

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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William H. Brubeck  
Executive Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Memorandum
2. Transcript

## MEMORANDUM

Subject: Lisa Howard's Interview with Fidel Castro

In Lisa Howard's interview with Castro, the following points come through:

- a. The missiles were introduced to forestall United States aggression.
- b. The Soviet troops were merely technicians - but would fight if Cuba is invaded.
- c. Schism between hard nosed Commies and Fidelistas has been reconciled.
- d. Castro is no puppet. He has complete self determination. No strings on Soviet aid.
- e. Denies exporting revolution. Says it can't be done.
- f. Blames turn to Communism on suspension of sugar quota.
- g. Receptive to a United States commission to talk about compensation.
- h. Abandoned earlier promises of elections, etc. because of changed conditions and state of war.
- i. Would welcome reductions of tensions and rapprochement with United States.
- j. Will not become the Tito of the Caribbean.

### COMMENT:

1. Public airing in the United States of this interview would strengthen the arguments of "peace" groups, "liberal" thinkers, Commies, fellow travellers, and opportunistic political opponents of present United States policy.

2. It would provide Castro with a wide United States and international audience for his "reasonable" line. Question: Should we facilitate his propoganda efforts?

3. Other Latin American countries, particularly Brazil, Mexico, Bolivia and Uruguay, would say, in effect "Let's relax, there is no danger. Why should we continue to beat on Castro?"

4. Denial of ABC "rights" to report the news would raise the question of "managed" news.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington

May 2, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR

Hon. Edwin M. Martin  
Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-  
American Affairs

I've just received this transcript of an ABC  
interview with Castro. Would you please look  
it over, give me your comments and return it  
to me at your earliest convenience?

Pierre Salinger  
Press Secretary  
to the President